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Governor Dave Freudenthal

June 19, 2009

Ref: 09-115-CM

Dear State Respite Participants and Providers:

On June 4, 2009 Governor Dave Freudenthal announced reductions to the state agency budgets that are required to address forecasts of significantly lower revenues over the next three years. These reductions impact programs across the state and across all agencies, including the State Respite Program administered by the Wyoming Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division. Due to these reductions, effective July 1, 2009 no funding will be available for the State Respite Program. State respite services provided through June 30, 2009 will be reimbursed, to the extent funding is available, but respite services provided after that date will not be eligible for reimbursement.

The DD Division understands the impact this has on families who are either on the waiting list for services on the Children's DD Waiver, or who do not qualify for those services but rely on the State Respite program for assistance. Many factors were considered when determining what reductions should be made to specific programs.

The State Respite program is funded only with state funds and other supports may be available to children who received these services. Families may consider applying for services through the Department of Family Services, the Children's Mental Health Waiver, the Early Intervention and Education program for children under six, or services through the local school district.

The DD Division is not eliminating the State Respite Program, and the hope is that funding will be reinstated as the economy stabilizes. However, it is not anticipated that funding will be available for at least the next three years.

If you have any questions about the State Respite Program, please contact Beverly Swistowicz at 307-777-3321 or by email at beverly.swistowicz@health.wyo.gov.

Sincerely,

Cliff Mikesell, Administrator
Developmental Disabilities Division

CM/CN/ds

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